



County of San Diego

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DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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Base Station Physicians' Committee
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Community Epidemiology
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
HIV, STD and Hepatitis
Immunization
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services
Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing/Border Health
TB Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

BASE STATION PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Members Present

Glasser, M.D., Judd – Tri-City
Grad, M.D., Michele – Palomar/Pomerado
Harley, M.D., Jim – Children's
Kramer, M.D., Mark – Sharp Memorial
Linnik, M.D., Bill – Sharp Grossmont
MacPherson, Gary – Co. Paramedic Agencies' Comm.
Morikado, M.D., Lisa – Scripps La Jolla
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Sharp Memorial
Schwartz, M.D., Brad – American Medical Response
Stonecipher, R.N., Joanne – Southwestern College
Zahller, M.D., Steve – Scripps Mercy

County Staff Present

Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Metz, R.N., Marcy
Pate, R.N., Rebecca
Stepanski, Barbara

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

Guests Present

Anderson, R.N., Marilyn – Vista Fire
Barnes, R.N., Melanie – S.D. Med. Services Enterprise
Barsalou, Thea – UCSD ROC
Bourdon, R.N., Darlene – Scripps Mercy
Buono, M.D., Colleen – UCSD/Palomar College
Cerrone, R.N., Sharon – Mercy Air
Dotson, R.N., Melody – UCSD
Foehr, Rick – EMSTA, Inc.
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Palomar
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Med. Services Enterprise
Kelly, R.N., Donna – UCSD ROC
Kremer, Arnie – Alvarado
Kusman, Travis – American Medical Response
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Tri-City
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Sharp Grossmont
Mottet, Mary – S.D. Med. Services Enterprise
Ochs, R.N., Ginger – San Diego Fire Rescue
Sallee, M.D., Don – Naval Med. Center San Diego
Scott, Chris – North County Fire
Smith, Mitch – San Marcos Fire
Smith, R.N., Susan – San Diego Fire Rescue
Workman, R.N., Debi – Palomar College

I. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judd Glasser, M.D., Chair, brought the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Mark Kramer, M.D., Seconded by Steve Zahller, M.D., to approve the Minutes of April 17, 2007. MOTION carried.

III. MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

New Interim EMS Chief: Marcy Metz, R.N., has been appointed EMS Interim Director for three months. There will be a recruitment for a permanent Chief in the near future. Carmel Angelo, resigned to take the position of Director of Health and Human Services of Mendocino County, California.

PPR's (Personal Patient Record) for Hospitals: The trauma surgeons have asked that a PPR be available in the hospital for every patient. The potential for major problems arises when something is recorded on the PPR and not addressed by the physician.

STEMI Update: The system is going very well. Door-to-balloon times continue to look good and the system is meeting expectations at this point, with about 80% within 90 minutes. A first quarter report will be coming out in the future.

Taser Issues: EMS is reviewing this. Taser discharges by themselves are not considered to be dangerous. Patients with agitated delirium, who frequently have taken stimulants, are at risk of sudden death. Hyperthermia is a sign of high risk for death. If a patient with agitated delirium needs to be restrained, it should be done, if possible, without pressure on the chest or abdomen that impairs ventilation.

Stroke Task Force: The Stroke Task Force met June 7, 2007 and discussed criteria and future plans.

Orange County Speaker on E.R. Hallway Issues: The nurse from Orange County could come and speak on hallway bed issues in emergency rooms, possibly in July, 2007.

Suicide Conference: There is a suicide conference being scheduled at Scripps Mercy for November, 2007.

Pregnant Teenagers: This issue came up with the Medical Audit Committee (MAC). Children's Hospital transfers pregnant teenagers they receive to Sharp Memorial for trauma care. Children's is willing to take them if the female is under twenty weeks pregnant. Dr. Haynes volunteered to write up a guideline and have it sent out.

IV. BASE HOSPITAL NURSE COORDINATOR'S REPORT (Linda Rosenberg, R.N.)

The BHNC's are reviewing what their next audit will be.

The group is also reviewing some of the changes for Congestive Heart Failure.

Linda Broyles, R.N., has resigned her BHNC position at Scripps La Jolla and has taken a new position with American Medical Response (AMR).

V. ROC UPDATE (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

As of last week, between 33-34 patients were enrolled in the Hypertonic Saline Study. The group has been trying to have paramedics/EMT's focus on patients in the field to see if they qualify, not only hypotensive blunt trauma patients, but also patients with isolated head injuries.

The Cardiac Arrest Study is targeted to begin in July or later. Approximately 90% of the prehospital personnel who require training have been trained.

VI. USE OF CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) (Judd Glasser, M.D.)

Dr. Glasser stated that Dr. Haynes had approached him several months ago about the County having an interest in conducting a preliminary study or pilot program on CPAP. Primary questions included: is it effective, what is the benefit, what are the potential risks and what are the costs?

Results were that it reduces the work of breathing, it improves oxygenation, it avoids complications associated with mechanical ventilation and has uses in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and acute pulmonary edema.

Two studies have shown quite a bit of support for non-invasive positive pressure being very effective and helping to reduce the rate of intubation of these patients along with the overall mortality.

In regard to cost, CPAP is generally cheaper than BIPAP and smaller units are available. CPAP is also operator-friendly.

(Brad Schwartz, M.D.): AMR currently has three different studies throughout the country looking at the three different CPAP devices. **ACTION: Dr. Schwartz can provide more information.**

The issue of whether or not the emergency room is ready to receive a patient on CPAP was brought up. It is preferred to have a respiratory therapist with a CPAP machine who can transfer the patient to their equipment. Paramedics/EMT's would need to notify the base hospital ahead of arrival.

VII. HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THREATS (HACOT) (Jim Dunford, M.D.)

(Marcy Metz, R.N.): Wilma Wooten, M.D., has been named the County's Public Health Officer. Dr. Wooten is very much integrated in the grants and disaster preparedness areas. She is currently conducting an assessment of all the disaster groups throughout San Diego County and has also asked the HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) workgroup to give her agenda items for HACOT. A multi-disciplinary community input is necessary for many grants.

VIII. SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE DISASTER COUNCIL (Linda Rosenberg, R.N.)

Many courses are available funded through the HRSA Year Five grant. Classes will be held at Sharp, Scripps and UCSD facilities and most are free. Courses will include, but not be limited to mass triage, decontamination, and use of PAPR's. **ACTION: Please let Ms. Rosenberg know if you need more information.**

The Council has also been working on a regional inventory list, that would be accessible to emergency operations centers in emergency situations.

Some Council and hospital representatives participated in the NDMS (National Disaster Medical Response) drill on May 14-15, 2007. The drill was with the military where patients from another site were off-loaded from a military plane at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station and theoretically transferred to local hospitals. Scenarios of the drill included evacuations and flooding, and hospitals had to provide their bed availability counts often. For many hospitals, it was more of an internal drill for the floors and intensive care units. The Council will be conducting a summary review at it's meeting Wednesday, June 20, 2007.

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Dr. Haynes will check into whether the nurse from Orange County will be able to present in July, 2007 regarding hallway bed issues in emergency departments.

(Other): (Pam Steen, R.N.): The Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems will be conducting an accreditation site visit of Mercy Air, July 19-20, 2007. If anyone would like to give information to the Accreditation Commission, they are welcome to do so.

(Other): Discussion ensued regarding whether or not BSPC wanted to have the Pearls from PAC included in their minutes. It was suggested that maybe these could be brought to the committee annually even though they are sent out by e-mail each time.

(Other): (Dr. Glasser): Discussion ensued regarding the San Diego City policy of intubation performed when there is a lack of an End-tidal CO2 reading versus no End-tidal CO2 reading at all.

(Dr. Linnik): There were a lot of these cases to the point that it was thought to be a system issue. If the CO2 detector is not working then it has to be put aside. Each case was reviewed and the folks involved counseled on what to do and how to use the new technology.

(Dr. Glasser): The Committee supports the base hospital physician in circumstances where there is a question whether or not the paramedics can intubate at that time to use the local policy. If the base hospital physician orders the intubation, that's what the paramedics should be doing.

(Ginger Ochs, R.N.): If you have a CO2 reading and lose it, change detectors paying attention to your CO2 readings. If you're having trouble getting the CO2 reading back, go back to a basic airway.

(Other): The question was asked if anyone had feedback from the Rock 'N Rock Marathon. **ACTION: Melody Dotson, R.N., UCSD, was send Dr. Glasser a summary.**

X. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2007, 11:00 a.m. at Sharp Spectrum Auditorium, 8695 Spectrum Center Court, Kearny Mesa, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS